

Message Text

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ACTION IO-14

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TAGS: ESCAP, OCON
SUBJ: ESCAP, EXPERT GROUP MEETING ON BIOGAS DEVELOPMENT,
BANGKOK, 20-26 JUNE 1978

1. FOLLOWING MESSAGE FROM MR. ROSCOE WARD, US REPRESENTATIVE
TO SUBJECT MEETING. COPY OF DRAFT REPORT BEING POUCHED TO
IO/IEP.

2. ANAEROBIC DIGESTION AND THE PRODUCTION OF METHANE
GAS (BIOGAS) IS A VIABLE ALTERNATIVE FOR USE IN THE REGION.
THE USDOE HAS AN ACTIVE R&D PROGRAM IN THE US WHICH IS
DIRECTED TOWARD LOW COST SYSTEMS WHICH WOULD BE OF GREAT USE
TO SOUTH-EAST ASIA AND THE PACIFIC REGION.

3. IN GENERAL THE DELEGATES ARE DEDICATED TO THE CONCEPT AND
HAVE BEEN ABLE TO BUILD SMALL FACILITIES BUT THEIR APPROACH
HAS BEEN EMPIRICAL. IN THE US WE HAVE BEEN TRYING TO REDUCE
THE CAPITAL COSTS AND IMPROVE OPERATION. (COST IN INDIA WAS
QUOTED AT \$600 OR MORE PER DIGESTER AS AN EXAMPLE - THIS IS
NOT LOW COST TO AN INDIAN FARMER).

4. ONLY THREE COUNTRIES, THAILAND, KOREA AND BANGLADESH, HAD
ANY DELEGATES THAT SEEMED TO BE KNOWLEDGEABLE IN THE
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DIGESTION AREA. THEY WERE DR. SERMPOL RATSASUK
(THAILAND), HYUN UK KIM (KOREA A BIO-CHEMIST) AND
M.N. ISLAM (BANGLADESH).

5. IF THE US WISHES TO HAVE AN IMPACT IN DEVELOPING
COUNTRIES' ENERGY, HEALTH, AND AGRICULTURE, I WOULD
STRONGLY RECOMMEND WE TRY TO WORK WITH THEM MORE IN THE

AREA OF BIOGAS DEVELOPMENT.

6. I PLAN UPON RETURN TO US TO DO THE FOLLOWING:

A) SEND EACH DELEGATE A COPY OF THE NATIONAL ACADEMY OF SCIENCES PUBLICATION ON GIESTION, AND ADDITIONAL INFORMATION ON OUR CONTRACTS. COPIES OF MOST OF OUR DOCUMENTS HAVE ALREADY BEEN PROVIDED TO THE ESCAP LIBRARY.

B) HAVE ONE OF OUR CONTRACTORS HELP IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE TABLES AND INFORMATION FOR THE ESCAP PUBLICATION.

7. FUTURE ACTION:

A) I WOULD RECOMMEND THAT IN THE AUGUST MEETING OF ESACP ON ENERGY A KNOWLEDGEABLE PERSON ON THE OPPOURTUNITIES OF DIGESTION FROM THE US ATTEND.

B) IF FUTURE MEETINGS ON BIOGAS ARE HELD A WORKSHOP COULD BE SPONSORED BY THE US BY WHICH WE COULD TRY TO UPGRADE THEIR KNOWLEDGE OF DESIGN AND OPERATION OF SYSTEMS. THIS SHOULD RESULT IN LOWER COST MORE EFFICIENT SYSTEMS.
O'DONOHUE

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